

GRAY SHATTERS WYCOMBE HOPES

Wycombe W 0 Leytonstone 4

LEYTONSTONE'S international star Ken Gray played a leading part in the surprise eclipse of Wycombe Wanderers with two fine goals and a share in a third.

Wycombe had chances in the first half to make sure of the points, although they had rather more of the play, the home forwards were well contained by a quick-tackling Leytonstone defence.

Apart from the bright sallies of international left-winger Brian Harvey, Leytonstone had been disappointing in attack and were lucky to cross over with a goal lead from Gray.

Then a Leytonstone onslaught early in the second half brought two goals in three minutes, right half Andrews scoring the first from Gray's pass and the busy Gray the second.

Wycombe's desperate attempts kept Leytonstone's defence anxiously occupied but the forwards lacked the final punch of their opponents and it was little surprise when Cheesewright smacked home a fourth a few minutes before the end.

Champs Expose Weaknesses

BY "CHILTERN"

Wycombe Wanderers 0, Leytonstone 4.

LEAGUE champions, Leytonstone, meted their second home defeat in five days to Wycombe Wanderers on Saturday with a ruthless display of power football. After a good run which had put them into fourth place in the Isthmian League, Wanderers are now having weaknesses exposed too often, and if manager Barry Darvill has any changes in mind he has just eight days to find replacements before Wycombe's F.A. Cup Tie with Southern League Bedford.

In recent games the whole left flank of Royston, Gale and Merrick has proved suspect, and Saturday was no exception.

Despite the scoresheet, Wycombe were unlucky to be in arrears at half-time. They had the best of the first 45 minutes, and although they had given the champions' defence a real battering, they were unable to penetrate it.

Leytonstone relied on the old spoiling tactics of bringing 10 men back into their penalty area when under pressure, and their strength came in being able to break out into attack quickly.

Wycombe could have gone ahead in the first minute, but Horseman miskicked Bates' return pass. And later in the half Mackie did well to hold a terrific Bates shot, and had to dive smartly to smother a snapshot from Horseman.

A minute before the interval Leytonstone took the lead which they did not deserve when international inside-right Ken Gray netted following a left-wing corner that Cheesewright headed back across the goal-mouth—a move which the Wycombe forwards practice.

Leytonstone's goals followed at regular intervals through the second half. In the 52nd minute following a Worley bad pass, Cheesewright broke away, beat Royston easily and Andrews was on hand to convert his pass.

Then Merrick had a poor pass intercepted by full-back Moffatt who burst through and shot hard. Maskell was only able to parry the shot and Gray raced in to score.

Cheesewright got their fourth near the end after Maskell had done well to get to a terrific shot from Harvey, but again was unable to hold it, and the inside-left pushed it home.

After a good first-half Wycombe ran out of ideas after the interval, and the Londoners began to look more dangerous. And as they piled on the pressure Wycombe began to get rattled. In the heat of a Leytonstone attack Royston had his name taken and was lucky not to have been sent off after punching Gray. That he was provoked is no excuse.

It was always a tough game—a game of feeling, and in the closing minutes the referee had to pour soothing oil on an ugly incident involving Worley, Moffatt and Gray.

Wycombe had several second-half chances, but failed in front of goal. They always seemed to want to make a move too many before shooting—a luxury they can't afford to take against smart defences.

Wycombe—Maskell; Beck, Royston; Baker, Rundle, Gale; Worley, Samuels, Bates, Horseman, Merrick.